

## NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

### NUNEATON TOWN DEAL BOARD

4<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

A meeting of the Town Deal Board was held on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. Due to Government guidance on social-distancing and the Covid-19 virus this meeting was held virtually and live streamed.

#### Present

Sean Farnell (CWLEP) – Chair  
Marion Plant (Education Sector) – Vice-Chair

Amanda Bourne (Local SME Business Sector), Councillor Peter Butlin (WCC), Councillor Jeff Clarke (WCC), Councillor Julie Jackson (NBBC), Jet Jones (Community Sector), Marcus Jones, (MP), Uly Lyons (Education Sector), Jenni Northcote (representative for Adrian Stokes (Health Sector), Dr Julie Nugent (WMCA), Councillor Neil Phillips (NBBC), Les Ratcliffe (CWLEP), Alison Thompson (WCAVA) and Councillor Kris Wilson (NBBC).

Apologies: None received.

Officers in attendance: W. Bolton (NBBC), B. Davies (NBBC), D. Dawson (NBBC), A. Dent (Advent), Catherine Marks (WCC), J. Pye (Arup), R. Merriman (Advent).

TDB45      Chair's welcome and announcements

The Chair welcomed Board Members and other invited guests to the meeting.

TDB46      Minutes

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2020, be confirmed, and signed by the Chair.

TDB47      Declarations of Interests

Board Members' interests for the meeting were set out in a Schedule of Declarations of Interests, attached to the agenda.

**RESOLVED** that declarations of Interest are as set out in the Schedule attached to these minutes.

TDB48      Update on Consultation

The Director – Regeneration and Housing, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC), submitted a report to provide the Board with information pertaining to the results of the first stage of the consultation process which ended on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.

It was reported that Advent, the appointed Communications and Engagement Consultant, had worked closely with Warwickshire

Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA) to ensure the consultation reached as many community groups as possible. Additionally, the consultation was promoted by:

- The Federation of Small Businesses;
- Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce;
- Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership;
- Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Growth Hub.

The first stage consultation commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020 and ended on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020, however, responses received up to 1<sup>st</sup> September were also accepted. A summary of responses by theme was attached as Appendix A to the report.

It was proposed that consultation be extended for a further seven days to target businesses and education, and to specifically ask the community for their thoughts on the digital agenda. Jet Jones offered the use of the Saints building for the extended consultation and Marion Plant also suggested that targeted work could be done through education communication channels now that schools and colleges were open.

Adam Dent, Managing Director of Advent, outlined the next steps which included a variety of communications via social media, the website and press, in order to keep residents, local businesses and organisations informed of developments in regards to the consultation outcomes, project selection and the TIP submission.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the contents of the report and appendix be noted;
- b) the consultation period be extended a further week; and
- c) Adam Dent meet with Jet Jones, Marion Plant and Dawn Dawson immediately following the Board meeting, to further explore ways of widening the consultation during the extension.

TDB49

#### Project Plan

The Director – Regeneration and Housing (NBBC), submitted a project plan and outlined the key stages of TIP development and submission.

The Board was informed that Ann Water, Economic Development Manager (NBBC), was drafting the strategic narrative and that Task and Finish Groups were working vigorously to gather evidence and determine projects for shortlisting by the September deadline.

The Chair informed the Board that as the date for submission was tight, approval had been given for information to be circulated for consideration by Members between Board meetings.

Julian Pye of Arup, Nuneaton's Town Deal Delivery Partner, requested that meeting dates be scheduled in the diary for early October to check and challenge on the draft TIP.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the project plan be noted and a date be scheduled in the diary for early October for check and challenge.

TDB50 Town Deal Board Aims and Objectives

Following discussions with Nuneaton's Town Deal Delivery Partner and BEIS Delivery Manager, the Board had been notified that it was required to agree a vision and objectives in relation to the Towns Fund initiative. This would be critical to demonstrating clarity in relation to strategy and would be used to inform a scoring mechanism for shortlisting projects to be put forward within the TIP.

The Director – Regeneration and Housing (NBBC), submitted a draft map of the proposed Towns Fund vision statement and objectives, cross referenced to the Towns Fund and Transforming Nuneaton, and requested feedback from Members.

Julian Pye suggested that more consideration be given to the wording of the vision statement which he felt could be improved by being more specific, include some of the outcomes and an indication of what the transformation was going to be. Julian recommended that the vision statement and objectives set out what Nuneaton was all about, the ambitions for the town and how it would be transformed.

It was also suggested that the objectives be amended to ensure that they reflected Nuneaton's unique opportunities and challenges and the pursuit of quality, sustainability, innovation, and the need to address inequality and disadvantage.

**RESOLVED** that Board Members submit any contributions regarding the draft vision statement and objectives to Dawn/Wendy by no later than noon on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September.

TDB51 Prioritisation Criteria

The Director – Regeneration and Housing (NBBC) presented the following draft list of prioritisation criteria for consideration by Board Members:

1. strategic fit - alignment with objectives
2. deliverability
3. alignment with consultation outcomes
4. co-funding/private investment
5. costs - is the project a capital bid.
6. additionality - does the project bring wider benefits.

Members recommended that careful consideration be given to rephrasing point 6. additionality, in order not to make the criteria too wide and ambitious.

It was also suggested that in regard to co-funding and private investment, a measurement be included relating to the opportunity to stimulate investment and wider economy.

The Chair recommended that more work be done on the criteria as it was vitally important the Board could give a reason to accept or reject projects during shortlisting.

**RESOLVED** that following further discussions with the TDDP, the amended criteria be submitted to the Board for further consideration.

TDB52 Updated Schedule of Issues

An updated schedule of issues was presented to the Board for approval.

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of issues be updated to include project information and be used as a project management tool.

TDB53 Task and Finish Group Update

The Director – Regeneration and Housing (NBBC) provided Board members with a verbal update on the huge amount of work being done by Task and Finish Groups in terms of evidence gathering and potential project development.

**RESOLVED** that thanks be extended to those working on Task and Finish Groups.

TDB54 Any other business

Concern was raised regarding the large volume of Towns Fund work being undertaken by the Director – Regeneration and Housing, alongside her other Council responsibilities and duties.

Councillor Jackson, leader of NBBC, confirmed that an Assistant Director was in post at the Council and that other resources had been identified to support the work.

**RESOLVED** that

- a) the Executive Director – Operations, Executive Director – Resources (NBBC) and the Director – Regeneration and Housing further consider ways to resource the work; and
- b) the Chair offered support from the Board membership if required.

TDB55 Date and time of the next meeting

Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020 – 10.00 am

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(Chair)